November 8, 1955

Dr. P. R. Edwards
Box 185
Chamblee, Georgia

Dear Phil:

Your letter and culture (S. typhimurium, H_2S-neg.) arrived while I was out of town, or I should have acknowledged them sooner. It was thoughtful of you to send the mutant.

I have wondered about using such a marker before, especially on the basis of W. J. Wilson's remark (Jour. Hygiene 46:70-, 1948) that H_2S-negative mutants of Salmonellas could be obtained selectively by prolonged culture on Wilson-Blair medium. Have you seen this note? But I could not see how one could effectively select for or against the mutant, and this lessens its possible value. But we are glad to have this one for possible future use.

Work here has been a bog-- I'm still way behind, and have hardly started writing that paper (on the java H_1^b $H_1^{1,2}$) that I promised last spring! I'll let you know when and if.

I hear strong rumors that you are going to be getting your new lab. building at last before very long. I hope they are correct.

Do you remember that infant girl who was excreting Serratia last winter? She finally developed a predominantly typical coliform flora, but to this date she still carries the red bug. No microbiology needed-- her diapers show it up at intervals. The level of the Serratia is quite low, of the order of 0.1% of the colis, but rather variable in time. No obvious illeeffects. A friend of mine is going to see whether this strain can be experimentally implanted in mice. Would you pass this word on to Bill Ewing as well, together with my regards and thanks for the serotyping? Is there anything else you or he want to know about this story? It seems fairly likely that the Serratia started as an airborne contaminant from some large scale aerosolization expts. across the street from the hospital, but there have been no other occurrences or signs of untoward effects.

You will have met Dr. Simon in the serology course-- I hope you can train her in "the works", as there is some possibility of her making some useful applications of immunogenetics of Salmonella when she gets back to Madison.

With best wishes as ever,

Yours sincerely,

Dick